

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (CANCELLED)

4. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A camera comprising:

an imaging part that includes an imaging device;

a variable gain amplifier that amplifies video signals outputted from the imaging part;

a signal processing part that processes the video signals amplified by the variable gain amplifier;

a brightness determining part that receives the video signals outputted from the signal processing part and determines a brightness level of the received video signals;

a gain controlling part that controls a gain of the variable gain amplifier according to the brightness level of the video signals, wherein the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to a gain value falling within an effective gain range and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio;

a correction amount determining part that determines a correction amount for the video signals according to the brightness level of the video signals determined by the brightness determining part;

a correcting part that corrects the video signals according to the correction amount determined by the correction amount determining part; and

an outputting part that outputs the video signals corrected by the correction part to a displaying device.

5-6. (CANCELED)

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The camera according to ~~claim 6~~ Claim 8, further comprising a switch for choosing a command correction processing mode or a non-correction processing mode.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The camera according to claim 6,~~ A camera comprising:

a taking lens;

a diaphragm operatively connected to the taking lens;

an imaging device operatively connected to the taking lens and the diaphragm;

an image signal processing circuit having

an A/D converter for converting analog image signals from the imaging device into digital image signals,

a gamma correcting circuit,

an image signal processing circuit adapted to perform gamma processing and chroma signal processing on the digital image signals, and

a D/A converter adapted to convert the digital image signals into analog image signals;

a display device controlling circuit adapted to output the analog image signals to a displaying device according to the analog image signals output from the image signal processing circuit; and

a microcomputer operatively connected to an EEPROM,

wherein said microcomputer is adapted to control the diaphragm according to the digital image signals from the image signal processing circuit, adapted to send shutter speed control signals to the imaging device for controlling camera shutter speed, and adapted to automatically determine if a determined brightness level of the digital image signals is lower than a predetermined value, and

wherein said microcomputer is adapted to select a predetermined correction value from the EEPROM according to the determined brightness level of the digital image signals, and to output a command control signal to the image signal processing circuit for automatic correction processing of the digital image signals without lowering a SN ratio and before the digital image signals are converted into the analog image signals by the D/A converter, and

further comprising a variable gain amplifier operatively connected between the imaging device and the A/D converter of the image signal processing circuit,

wherein a gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled by the microcomputer to provide an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range provided by a data table within the EEPROM and which does not permit a lowering of the SN ratio.

9. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The camera according to claim 8,~~ A camera comprising:

a taking lens;

a diaphragm operatively connected to the taking lens;

an imaging device operatively connected to the taking lens and the diaphragm;

an image signal processing circuit having

an A/D converter for converting analog image signals from the imaging device into digital image signals,

a gamma correcting circuit,

an image signal processing circuit adapted to perform gamma processing and chroma signal processing on the digital image signals, and

a D/A converter adapted to convert the digital image signals into analog image signals;

a display device controlling circuit adapted to output the analog image signals to a displaying device according to the analog image signals output from the image signal processing circuit; and

a microcomputer operatively connected to an EEPROM,

wherein said microcomputer is adapted to control the diaphragm according to the digital image signals from the image signal processing circuit, adapted to send shutter speed control signals to the imaging device for controlling camera shutter speed, and adapted to automatically determine if a determined brightness level of the digital image signals is lower than a predetermined value, and

wherein said microcomputer is adapted to select a predetermined correction value from the EEPROM according to the determined brightness level of the digital image signals, and to output a command control signal to the image signal processing circuit for automatic correction processing of the digital image signals without lowering a SN ratio and before the digital image signals are converted into the analog image signals by the D/A converter,

further comprising a variable gain amplifier operatively connected between the imaging device and the A/D converter of the image signal processing circuit,

wherein a gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled by the microcomputer to provide an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range provided by a data table within the EEPROM and which does not permit a lowering of the SN ratio, and

said further comprising a variable gain amplifier amplifying the analog image signals from the imaging device before said A/D converter receives said analog image signals.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A camera that captures an image with an imaging part and displays the image on a displaying device,

wherein the camera determines a brightness level of video signals obtained by the imaging part and automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level and outputs the corrected video signals to the displaying device, and

wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level by offsetting the brightness levels of the video signals by a correction value through correction processing, and further comprising:

- a variable gain amplifier that amplifies signals outputted from an imaging part;

and

a gain controlling part that controls a gain of the variable gain amplifier according to the brightness level of the video signals,

wherein the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for adjusting a brightness level of an image captured on a camera and displayed on a display device, said method comprising:

determining a brightness level of video signals obtained by an imaging part and automatically correcting the video signals according to a determined brightness level;

and

outputting the corrected video signals to the display device, wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level by offsetting the brightness levels of the corrected video signals by a correction value through correction processing, wherein a microcomputer within the camera provides an

optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range provided by a data table within an EEPROM of the computer and which does not permit a lowering of an SN ratio.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A method for adjusting a brightness level of an image captured on a camera and displayed on a display device, said method comprising:

determining a brightness level of video signals obtained by an imaging part and automatically correcting the video signals according to a determined brightness level; and

outputting the corrected video signals to the display device, wherein the camera automatically corrects the video signals according to the determined brightness level without lowering an SN ratio, wherein a gain controlling part of the camera controls a gain of a variable gain amplifier within the camera according to the determined brightness level of the video signals, and the gain of the variable gain amplifier is controlled to an optimum gain value falling within an effective gain range.

13-18. (CANCELLED)

19. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The camera according to claim 6,~~ A camera comprising:

a taking lens;

a diaphragm operatively connected to the taking lens;

an imaging device operatively connected to the taking lens and the diaphragm;
an image signal processing circuit having
an A/D converter for converting analog image signals from the imaging
device into digital image signals,
a gamma correcting circuit,
an image signal processing circuit adapted to perform gamma processing
and chroma signal processing on the digital image signals, and
a D/A converter adapted to convert the digital image signals into analog
image signals;
a display device controlling circuit adapted to output the analog image signals to
a displaying device according to the analog image signals output from the image signal
processing circuit; and
a microcomputer operatively connected to an EEPROM,
wherein said microcomputer is adapted to control the diaphragm according to the
digital image signals from the image signal processing circuit, adapted to send shutter
speed control signals to the imaging device for controlling camera shutter speed, and
adapted to automatically determine if a determined brightness level of the digital image
signals is lower than a predetermined value, and
wherein said microcomputer is adapted to select a predetermined correction
value from the EEPROM according to the determined brightness level of the digital
image signals, and to output a command control signal to the image signal processing
circuit for automatic correction processing of the digital image signals without lowering a

SN ratio and before the digital image signals are converted into the analog image signals by the D/A converter,

wherein the imaging device is directly connected to the A/D converter of the image signal processing circuit.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The camera according to ~~claim 6~~ claim 8, wherein the microcomputer outputs the command control signal directly from the microcomputer to the image signal processing circuit.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) ~~The camera according to claim 6,~~ A camera comprising:

a taking lens;

a diaphragm operatively connected to the taking lens;

an imaging device operatively connected to the taking lens and the diaphragm;

an image signal processing circuit having

an A/D converter for converting analog image signals from the imaging device into digital image signals,

a gamma correcting circuit,

an image signal processing circuit adapted to perform gamma processing and chroma signal processing on the digital image signals, and

a D/A converter adapted to convert the digital image signals into analog image signals;

a display device controlling circuit adapted to output the analog image signals to a displaying device according to the analog image signals output from the image signal processing circuit; and

a microcomputer operatively connected to an EEPROM,

wherein said microcomputer is adapted to control the diaphragm according to the digital image signals from the image signal processing circuit, adapted to send shutter speed control signals to the imaging device for controlling camera shutter speed, and adapted to automatically determine if a determined brightness level of the digital image signals is lower than a predetermined value, and

wherein said microcomputer is adapted to select a predetermined correction value from the EEPROM according to the determined brightness level of the digital image signals, and to output a command control signal to the image signal processing circuit for automatic correction processing of the digital image signals without lowering a SN ratio and before the digital image signals are converted into the analog image signals by the D/A converter,

wherein the signals from the imaging device are sent to the A/D converter of the image signal processing circuit without passing through a variable gain amplifier.